(c) the pending cases in Guwahati High Court relating to Tripura;

(d) the steps Government are contemplating to minimise the number of pending cases;

(e) whether Government have received any memorandum to establish a bench of Guwahati High Court at Dibrugarh; and

(f) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) As per available information, 25,35,943 cases are pending in different High Courts of the country for more than two years.

(b) and (c) 14,586 cases were pending for more than two years in Guwahati High Court as on 31.12.2001 and 4272 cases were pending in Guwahati High Court relating to Tripura as on 31.12.2001.

(d) For efficiently dealing with arrears of pending cases in High Courts, the optimum strength of the judges in each High Court is reviewed triennially by Government of India, in consultation with the constitutional functionaries in the States concerned and the Chief Justice of India. One such Triennial Review was held in October 2003. They assessed that an additional 94 posts of High Court judges would be required out of which 8 posts would be for Guwahati High Court.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Publication of Information about Contesting Candidates

2116. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether assets, criminal records and educational qualifications of the candidates for Assembly elections would be made public and printed in newspapers;

(b) whether people can object, if any, wrong information is declared by a candidate; and

(c) the measures taken to popularize the procedure for filling objections to make rural people aware of their democratic rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Election Commission *vide* its order dated 27th March, 2003 had directed that information regarding criminal antecedents, assets and liabilities and education of candidates, have to be supplied in the form of an affidavit alongwith his/her nomination paper. The information so furnished by each candidate in the aforesaid affidavit shall be disseminated by the respective returning officers by displaying a copy of the affidavit on the notice board of his office and also by making the copies thereof available freely and liberally to all other candidates and the representatives of the print and electronic media. If any rival candidate furnishes information to the contrary, by means of a duly sworn affidavit, then such affidavit of the rival candidate shall also be disseminated along with the affidavit of the candidate concerned. The Election Commission had directed that the Commission's order mentioned above should be given widest publicity through all media of mass communication, print as well as electronic media for information of general public and electors.

Recommendations of Delhi High Court

2117. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recommendations made by Delhi High Court that "Responsibility of court administration should be left to the judiciary and that the Government should have no control over it" and "That judiciary is blamed for all the failures in the administration of justice whereas control over appointment of judges and financial component of the justice delivery mechanism, remains with Government"; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Delhi High Court in its judgment in a Criminal Case, Crl. M(M) No. 2686/2003 observed that the Government should transfer the responsibility of court administration